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Letter dated 26 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the letter dated 20 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to Your Excellency and its enclosure, which was circulated as a Security Council document (S/2000/821), concerning the question of the delimitation of the continental shelf in the Persian Gulf, and upon the instruction of my Government, I wish to state the following:

The Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kuwait have expressed their willingness to embark on bilateral negotiations on the question of the delimitation of their continental shelf in the Persian Gulf. The intention of both Governments in this respect is in line with the well-established principles of international law and also in exercise of their sovereign rights.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran considers this intention as a positive and effective step towards the strengthening and enhancement of peace, security and stability in the region. Iran further believes that Iraq's assertion that "any delimitation of the continental shelf in this region must be made by agreement among *all* the States" clearly lacks legal basis and therefore deserves no response. Moreover, Iran regards the reference to article 83 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in Iraq's letter as an irrelevant justification for the baseless perception.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Hadi **Nejad-Hosseinian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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